

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 5-17 and 24-28 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 3 and 5-8 are amended, claims 2, 4 and 18-23 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein, and claims 24-28 are added. No new matter is added. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Claim 8 is amended to correct a minor informality.

The Office Action rejects claims 5-17 under 35 U.S.C. §101. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action asserts that the term "a device" comprising various "servers" does not include any functional physical structure of the device and could instead be implemented in software. Applicants respectfully disagree with this assertion.

First, the recited "servers" are well known in the art to include a physical structure. Moreover, claim 5, for example, recites in the preamble that multiple processings to document data are processed in a cooperative manner on a network. Claim 5 also recites that "a cooperative processing server...sends a notice...based on the event to be notified...in the notice condition data received from the script creation server." Therefore, claim 5 clearly at least implicitly requires some communication structure as part of the cooperative processing server and the script creation server in order to transmit/receive data. Thus, "servers" possess underlying physical structure in order to operate.

Furthermore, the Office Action does not explain how the "device" and the "servers" as recited in the rejected claims could be implemented in software alone as alleged. More specifically, the Office Action does not explain how "software" alone can be provided on a network and be capable of transmitting, receiving or storing data between "software" without requiring any physical structure. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 7,069,536 to Yaung in view of newly cited U.S. Patent No. 5,815,152 to Collier et al. (Collier). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 1 and 5-7 recite, *inter alia*, a notice form change part that varies the at least one of the predetermined types of communication to notify the event recited in the notice condition data received from the script creation server in a case where a specific user performs a processing. Claim 3 recites, *inter alia*, varying the at least one of the predetermined types of communication to notify the event recited in the notice condition data in a case where a specific user performs a processing. These features were originally recited in canceled claims 2 and 4. See also Applicants' specification, page 26, lines 19-22.

Regarding claims 2 and 4, the Office Action asserts that Yaung and Collier disclose that a user is able to vary the notification setting when the user modifies the workflow. See Yaung's col. 12, lines 11-15 and 40-48; and Collier's col. 9, lines 4-28 and col. 6, lines 59-67. However, neither Yaung nor Collier disclose or suggest a notice form change part that varies at least one of the predetermined types of communication, as recited in claims 1, 3 and 5-7.

Furthermore, neither Yaung nor Collier disclose or suggest that the at least one of the predetermined types of communication is changed in a case where a specific user performs a processing. In Yaung and Collier, because the user varies the notification setting, the system does not need to determine whether a specific user, among the other users in general, performed a processing before sending the notification. In other words, any user may vary the notification setting in Yaung and Collier.

At least for these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 3 and 5-7 are patentable over Yaung and Collier. As such withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 8, 12, 13 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Yaung and Collier in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0061266 to

Ouchi; rejects claims 9 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Yaung and Collier in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,918,226 to Tarumi et al. (hereinafter "Tarumi"); rejects claims 10 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Yaung and Collier in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,200,860 to Ghaffar; and rejects claims 11 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Yaung and Collier in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2006/0005229 to Palekar et al. (hereinafter "Palekar"). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

None of Ouchi, Tarumi, Ghaffar and Palekar overcome the deficiencies of Yaung and Collier with respect to independent claims 6 and 7. Accordingly, claims 8-17 are allowable at least for their dependence on claims 6 and 7, respectively, as well as for the additional features they recite. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

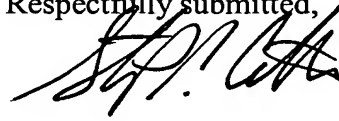
New claims 24-28 are added by this Amendment. Claims 24 and 26-28 each recite that the notice form change part varies the at least one of the predetermined types of communication so that the notice based on the event indicated in the notice condition is terminated. Claim 25 recites that the at least one of the predetermined types of the communication is varied so that the notice based on the event indicated in the notice condition is terminated. These features are shown in Fig. 12.

Claims 24-28 are allowable at least for their dependence on claims 1, 3 and 5-7, respectively, as well as for the additional features they recite.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments:

Petition for Extension of Time
Request for Continued Examination

Date: July 6, 2009

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